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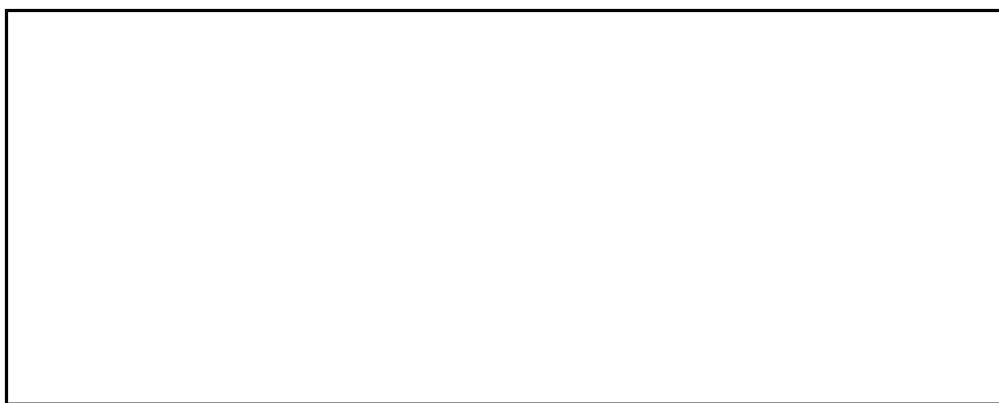
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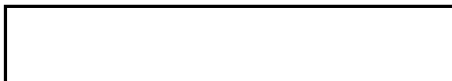
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Thailand: The Royal Thai Army apparently is making headway in its effort to gain effective control of counterinsurgency operations in northeast Thailand.

Deputy Prime Minister Praphat announced this week that martial law will be fully enforced in the insurgent-threatened areas of the northeast. The army has been pushing for this step as part of a more general effort to undermine the Counter-Subversion Operation Command (CSOC), the combined military-civilian organization responsible for coordinating the over-all counterinsurgency effort.

The operational director of CSOC has complained that the army has been seriously impairing the organization's effectiveness by refusing to cooperate with it.

[REDACTED]

The organization was created in 1965 specifically to bring all of the various Thai security and civilian elements into a combined effort against the Communists.

It is still not clear whether the martial law measures will be enforced through normal army channels or through CSOC. A compromise may have been reached giving the army a greater role in suppression operations, under nominal CSOC direction, while CSOC retains authority for development programs.

At any rate, the changes indicate that while the government counterinsurgency effort has made progress against the Communists, it still is beset with personal and bureaucratic rivalries.

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Indonesia - Communist China: Indonesia's latest move against Peking may lead to a suspension, but not a break, in relations with Communist China.

Indonesia yesterday PNG'd the charge d'affaires and a second secretary of the Chinese Embassy in Djakarta, demanding that they leave by 18 September.

Indonesia has been trying for three weeks to withdraw the seven remaining members of its Peking mission. Djakarta has been concerned for their welfare since 6 August when demonstrators in Peking ransacked the Indonesian Embassy and destroyed an embassy building.

When Djakarta requested exit visas in August, however, Peking refused, apparently preferring to keep the Indonesians in China as hostages in the event of action against the Chinese Embassy in Djakarta. The Chinese have usually reciprocated the expulsion of their officials, but in this case may continue to withhold exit visas from the Indonesians.

The Indonesian Foreign Ministry has been considering for several weeks the suspension of relations with China, but is concerned whether such action would contribute to the safe exit of Indonesian personnel from Peking.

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NOTES

Congo (Kinshasa): With the end of the African summit in Kinshasa, Mobutu will probably once again focus on the mercenary problem. US and Belgian officials, meanwhile, are preparing a mercenary evacuation plan involving the UN and International Red Cross. The plan has not yet been shown to either Mobutu or the mercenaries. The mercenaries received some assistance on 10 September by airdrop, in the form of either reinforcements or supplies, but still show no sign of taking the offensive. [REDACTED]

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Soviet Union: The Soviets remain reluctant to press the Arabs to make concessions for a Middle East settlement until there is some progress on Israeli troop withdrawal. Foreign Minister Gromyko told Ambassador Thompson on 12 September that if the US could arrange the withdrawal, Moscow would be prepared 'to take certain steps to facilitate a solution.' The Soviets recently told the Canadians that the moderate Arab stance at the Khartoum summit was a step forward, and that no further Arab moves could be expected until the Israelis respond. [REDACTED]

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 14 September 1967 approved the following national intelligence estimate:

NIE 92-67, "The Situation in Bolivia"

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